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EDUCATION IN LIBERIA.

The Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, having founded and thus far sustained Liberia College, are obliged to appeal to the friends of learning and religion for assistance in its support.

The Trustees of Donations were incorporated by an Act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, approved March 19, 1850. The College itself was established, and its Trustees incorporated, by an Act of the Legislature of Liberia, approved December 24, 1851. It is a National Institution, and the faith of the Republic is pledged to give it all the aid and protection which that infant nation is able to afford.

Having obtained the amount of funds necessary to make a beginning, and having overcome many obstacles arising from the state of affairs in Africa, the Trustees of Donations have, in co-operation with the Trustees of the College, erected suitable College buildings, sufficient for the probable wants of the Institution for many years to come; have collected a Library of several thousand volumes, and other means of instruction; have appointed an able Faculty, consisting of a President and three Professors, all of African descent, and competent to their respective duties; have opened the College for the reception of students, and conducted two classes through their whole collegiate course. A Preparatory Department has been added and sustained by successive appropriations of the Legislature of Liberia, aided to a small amount by the Trustees of Donations. A graduate of the College is now its Principal.

Such is the need, in that Republic, of such education as the College gives, that its students are eagerly sought, while at their studies, for various departments of business and public life; so that a majority of the older classes have been drawn into other pursuits before completing their course. Of the first class, only one was able to resist the inducements offered him, and persevere to the end. The second class, which has just graduated, had been reduced to three or four. The whole number of students on the list, at the commencement of the last year, was thirty-five; in actual attendance at its close, about thirty. For the year about commencing, an increase is expected.

That a Republic of some twenty thousand civilized inhabitants, receiving continual accessions from immigration, with more than five hundred miles of seacoast, with a population of more than two hundred thousand subject to its laws and in the process of civilization, needs a College, need not be argued. It is equally evident that this civilized population, made up, almost exclusively, of colored people from the United States, who, a few years ago, were unable to emigrate without charitable assistance, and of their children, must need foreign help to establish and sustain their College. They must need it, more than do our own new States and Territories, which are constantly calling for it and receiving it.

Nor is this all. If Africa is ever to receive the blessing of Christian civilization, it must be chiefly through the labors of men born and educated in Africa. Men of any other race cannot live and do the necessary labor in that climate; and if they could, experience has shown that such a work cannot be accomplished for any heathen land by laborers of foreign birth and education, between whom and the people to be acted upon, the necessary identity of interest and mutual sympathy can never exist. About all that foreigners can do, when most successful, is to bring the necessary native agency into existence and operation. Hence, the establishment of a College in the Sandwich Islands; that of another at Bebek, near Constantinople, for the education of Armenians and other

Asiatics; of another at Beirut, in Syria, for those speaking the Arabic language; and of other similar institutions. These have been established and are sustained, because it has been found that the work of Christian civilization cannot be successfully carried on without them. For the same reasons, a well-sustained College is indispensable to the successful prosecution of the same work in Africa.

And Liberia College is already entering upon that work; not only by its natural influence, in elevating the civilized and partially civilized inhabitants of the Republic, but by more direct labors. Already it is in correspondence with the Syrian College at Beirut, the present central point of Arabic learning, with respect to the enlightenment of the Arabic-speaking nations of Central Africa. Already, works in that language, religious and scientific, from the press at Beirut, have been received at Liberia College for distribution, and placed in the hands of visitors from the interior who could read them; and arrangements are made for continued supply and distribution.

To carry on this work, so necessary and so full of promise, we have the necessary legal organization in Liberia, of Trustees, President and Professors; all the buildings that will be needed for many years; the Library, with a fund of Five Thousand Dollars for its increase; valuable cabinets, for instruction in several departments of physical science; provision, by funds held in trust by the New York Colonization Society, for the support of one professor and nineteen beneficiary students.

To make this valuable beginning permanently useful, we need the means of support for the President and two Professors, for meeting a few necessary incidental expenses, and for increasing the apparatus in some departments.

We submit these statements to your enlightened consideration, hoping to receive from you such aid as, in your best judgment, the importance of the enterprise deserves.

ALBERT FEARING, President.
WILLIAM ROPES, Vice President,
G. W. THAYER,
EMORY WASHBURN,
ABNER KINGMAN,
LINUS CHILD,
CHARLES E. STEVENS, Treasurer,
JOSEPH TRACY, Secretary.
} Trustees.

Donations may be remitted to the Treasurer, CHARLES E. STEVENS, Esq., Boston & Albany Railroad Office, 40 State Street, Boston, or to either of the Trustees.

Boston, February 1868.

This Circular has been submitted to the consideration of President HILL and Professor PEABODY, of Harvard College, the Rev. Drs. BLAGDEN, GANNETT, ROBBINS and KIRK, Pastors of prominent churches in Boston, Rev. Dr. ANDERSON, late Foreign Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and the Rt. Rev. Dr. EASTBURN, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Massachusetts. Their testimony is subjoined:

I cordially sympathize in the appeal of the Trustees of Liberia College for material aid.

THOMAS HILL.

I concur entirely with President Hill.

ANDREW P. PEABODY.

I heartily concur in the Circular of the Trustees in behalf of the College in Liberia, having had a good opportunity, from my connection with the Massachusetts Colonization Society, to be familiar with the facts which make the necessity of the College very clear and imperative.

G. W. BLAGDEN.

I am glad to express my entire concurrence with Dr. Blagden in the views he entertains of the importance of Liberia College, and its claims on us for such encouragement as we may be able to give.

EZRA S. GANNETT.

I know of no object which has, at the present moment, a stronger claim upon the interest of every friend of humanity and civilization, than that which is so simply and forcibly commended in the Circular of the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia. It is hardly possible to overestimate the importance of the influence of Liberia College upon the future of Africa. The solid foundation upon which the Trustees have laid that Institution, the many obstacles which they have surmounted in its establishment, the amount of funds they have already raised for its support, and the wise and successful manner in which they have hitherto managed its affairs, are a sufficient guaranty that whatever may be contributed in response to their appeal will be judiciously applied.

CHANDLER ROBBINS.

A more truly philanthropic and Christian enterprise cannot be presented for our approbation and co-operation, than that of furnishing to Africa her first Christian College. The day of her redemption has dawned. It will no longer be the policy of Christian nations to keep her in darkness that she may replenish the slave-marts of the world. Christian missionaries, European and American colonies of white and black men, and scientific explorations, together with commercial enterprise, are now beginning to change the character and prospects of that degraded portion of the globe. It becomes the Christian enterprise of our people to furnish to Africa every means and instrument of a Christian civilization. No nation can better understand than ours, the importance of the College planted in the very infancy of either national existence or national emancipation. What Havard, Yale, Nassau Hall and kindred institutions have done for our Republic, Liberia College may do for that entire continent. We are not called upon to furnish the thousand colleges Africa may yet require to place her in the sisterhood of nations. We may not dot her hills and valleys with school-houses. But we can give her one college, plant for her the first germ of Christian education. We may open for her one fountain, from which will flow to the end of time the streams of living waters, to irrigate the desert, and make it as the garden of the Lord.

EDW. N. KIRK.

To no practical conclusion have I come more decidedly, than that Western Africa must be evangelized by Africans, or by their descendants. And whatever might once have been thought of the Liberia Colony in its bearing on slavery, I see not how any one can doubt, that it may be made a valuable evangelizing instrument in the country back of it and beyond it. I therefore regard the College of Liberia with special interest, as a means of raising up missionaries; and the more, because of its safeguard in the Trustees whose names are appended to your Circular; and I hope you will not fail to receive the funds needed for the institution.

R. ANDERSON.

The accompanying Circular of the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, expresses so clearly and fully the need of such an institution as Liberia College, that any further explanations are unnecessary. The statements of these gentlemen will commend themselves to all. I have only, therefore, to say, that the College should be sustained by the liberal contributions of those who are able to aid it; and that, by giving such assistance, they will have the satisfaction of carrying forward a work, which is destined to exert an elevating influence upon the African race through future generations.

MANTON EASTBURN.

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